

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204661

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CI

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN
SANTIAGO

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR DAVIS

1. FATHER HESBERGH OF UNIVERSITY NOTRE DAME, WHO SAYS HE KNOWS YOU WELL, TELEPHONED ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH THIS AFTERNOON CONCERNING THE STATUS OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN SANTIAGO. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE SCHOOL HAD BEEN "INTERVENED" AND THAT THE HEADMASTER HAD BEEN REPLACED BY A MILITARY OFFICER FOR THE PURPOSE OF "DEPOLITICIZING" THE SCHOOL. HESBERGH SAID THAT INITIAL PLAN HAD BEEN TO REPLACE HEADMASTER BY A COMMITTEE INCLUDING PARENTS AND STUDENTS BUT THIS PLAN HAD NOW BEEN DISCARDED.

2. FATHER HESBERGH SAID THAT ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL BELONGS TO A U.S. CORPORATION CHARTERED BY THE HOLY CROSS ORDER IN INDIANA. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT CHILDREN OF TWO OF THE JUNTA'S LEADERS ATTEND THE SCHOOL.

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3. AS A RESULT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH SCHOOL

OFFICIALS WHO WERE SEEKING HIS ADVICE AS TO WHAT TO DO, FATHER HESBERGH HAS ARRANGED FOR FATHER WILLIAM LEWERS AND RICHARD WARNER TO TRAVEL TO SANTIAGO THIS COMING WEEKEND (OCT 20-21) TO CONSULT WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL

AUTHORITIES. FATHER HESBERGH IS SUGGESTING TO LEWERS AND WARNER THAT THEY CONTACT YOU SOON AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL FOR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE. HESBERGH IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT SCHOOL MUST NOW ADAPT ITSELF TO THE NEW REALITIES IN CHILE AND TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS SEEM NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE ITSELF TO THE NEW REGIME IN ORDER TO SURVIVE FOR OTHER DAYS.

4. FATHER HESBERGH REQUESTS THAT YOU GIVE LEWERS AND WARNER THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PERSONAL ADVICE AND COUNSEL AND, IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, YOU ALSO ENCOURAGE PARENTS AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AT ST. GEORGE'S TO "HANG ON" UNTIL THEY ARRIVE THIS WEEKEND. KISSINGER

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